when the New Orleans Aviation Board made a decision to rebuild Concourse D and create a new West Terminal Lobby, the Board turned once again to the local Arts Council to help amass a permanent collection that would create a visually exciting and positive impression on air travelers. In 1996, local artist Richard Cornelius Thomas was commissioned by the Board to create large murals that feature a tribute to the legends of jazz and the unique tradition of brass bands, grand marshals and second lines.

Music is present at Armstrong International, live and otherwise. The Airport serves as a stage for some of the finest brass bands in the city who welcome the millions of passengers that pass through the Airport each year. We also feature hundreds of recordings of local and nationally known musicians played year round over our public address system. These sounds provide a backdrop that is distinctly New Orleans and hopefully sets the tone for what will be an experience of a lifetime for visitors and a “welcome home” for our residents.

A public arts program in airports is becoming an important feature in their spaces traveled by passengers. As you travel through airports, look around in their busy and sometimes hectic environment. You may be surprised at the sights and sounds placed there for your enjoyment that can change that airport from an “any airport USA” to one that makes that city or region it resides in distinct. The next time you are at Armstrong International, take some time to enjoy the wonderful artwork displayed throughout the Airport.

Until then, you can always download our Armstrong Art Collection brochure from our website, www.flymsy.com.

Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of Aviation for Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport may be reached at director@flymsy.com. You can follow the airport on Facebook at facebook.com/MSYAirport and Twitter @NO_Airport. Also, view “Airport Alive” on the airport website, www.flymsy.com.

Want to be a volunteer at the airport? To find out how, click on Ambassador on the airport website.